NATHAN,

THE

NORFOLK Quaker's VISION,

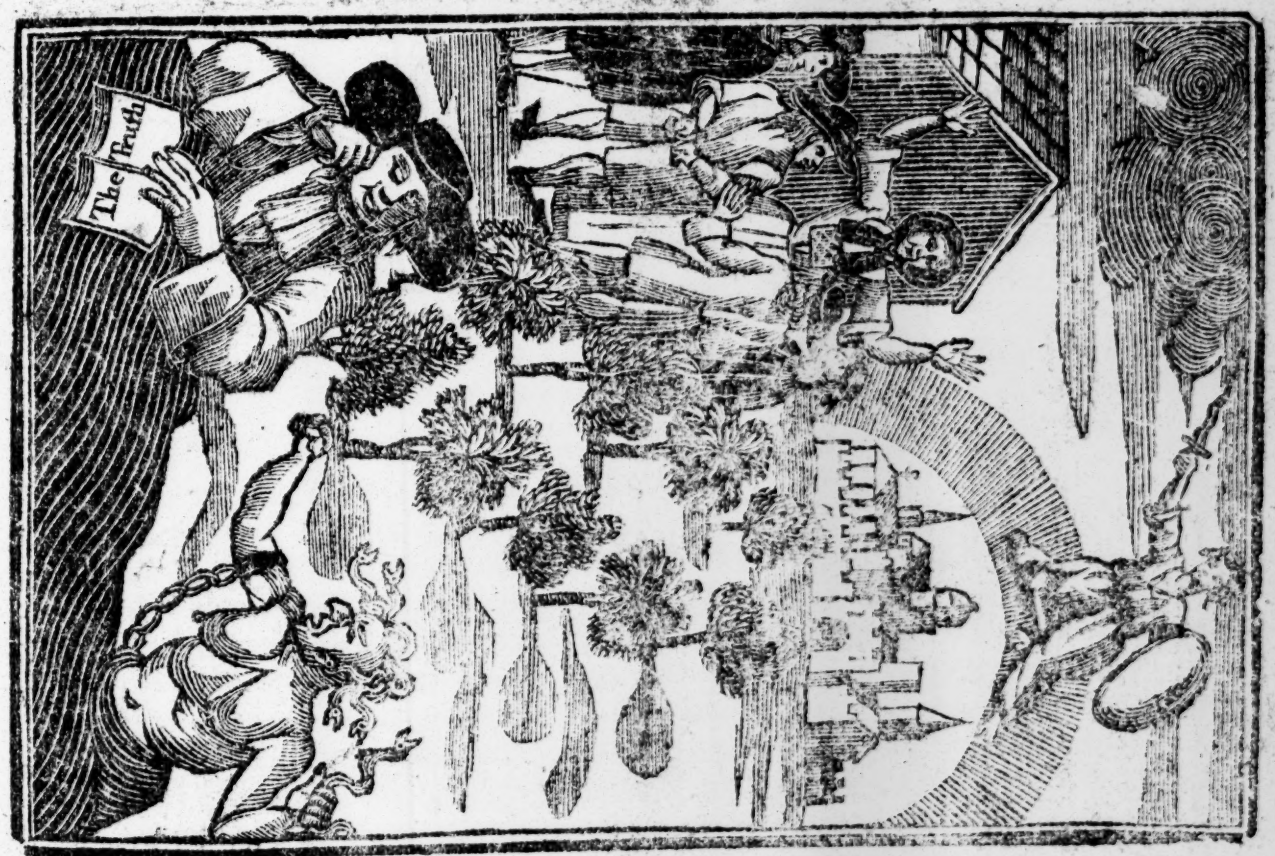
WITH AN

EPISTLE

TO HIS

Friend *ROBIN.*

A Wise Man foreseeth the Evil, and hideth himself, but the Foolish pass on, and are Punished. Prov.



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NATHAN, the *NORFOLK* Quaker's VISION, &c.

Friend,

FOR ſo my Heart is ſtill inclined to call thee, notwithſtanding I cannot gain-ſay many Things thy Enemies have laid to thy Charge. However, I Tax thee with nought my ſelf in particular; thou haſt a Conſcience, and ſo hath a Woman; thy Siſter *Sarah* in the Reign of *Anne* her Miſtreſs had juſt ſuch a One, one of the ſame Dimenſion; yea, verily one that could bear Streching upon any Occaſion——I ſay, thou haſt a Conſcience, ſtifle not its Accuſations, nor any Motions within thee to good, leſt thou art left to thy ſelf at laſt, and become broken in Spirit; for, a wounded Spirit who can bear? — Therefore, Friend *Robin*, be not angry with this my Exhortation; for it has been upon me ſome time ſo to do, yea, verily ever ſince the Day when the wiſe Men of our Nation congregated themſelves together to ſpeak freely their Minds, and redreſs the Grievances of their fellow Country-men; I ſay, ever ſince that Time I have been in great Pain for thee, and Labour'd like a Woman in ſore Travail for thy Deliverance; for the Night before the Morning of that Day, I had a ſtrong Impulſe upon my Spirit, juſt at the going dowu of the Sun, and afterwards a VISION; and lo, *Robin*, thus it happen'd unto me, *Nathan* thy Country-man.

About the Hour of Ten, *Deborah* my Wife, having made the Bed, and laid my * Cod as it ſhould be, I unbotton'd my Doublet, and undreſs'd my ſelf even to my Shirt, but had not power to lay my ſelf down, ſo that I ſtood by the Bed-ſide with my Eyes fix'd, and the Candle in my Hand, reſembling one of the *Whore of Babylon's Popiſh* Children, doing Penance for ſome Venial Crime —— The Weather was then cold, but I was inſenſible of it. ——At laſt *Deborah* ſpake aloud in my Ears, *Nathan*, *Nathan*, why ſtandeſt thou there in the Cold? If thou muſt ſtand, let it be in the warm Bed with the Wife of thy Boſome, for, verily thou haſt no Call thus to Mortify thy ſelf, and me — And having ſaid theſe Words, ſhe ceaſed to ſpeak more at that time. — Whereupon, I extinguiſh'd the Artificial Light, call'd a Farthing Candle, and did as *Deborah* would have me: I then let down the Covers of my Eyes, and cloſed them as faſt as if they had been Stitch'd down with a Cobler's End, or Sealed with Wax, and alſo ſhut faſt my Mouth, and put as it were a Padlock upon my Lips; and this I did, leſt *Satan*, the Enemy to Mankind, *who goeth about like a roaring Lyon, ſeeking whom he may devour*, might peradventure, ſteal into the Caſement of my Underſtanding, or perch upon my Teeth, and ſo hop down the Paſſage to my Heart: I Likewiſe ſtop'd both my Ears with my Fingers, ſo that if *Robin*, thou hadſt ſeen me, in that Poſture, thou wouldſt have ſaid, I reſembled one of thoſe Statues which lye at length at the *Weſt end* of the Steeple Houſein the *Temple*; ſaving I had no Armour on; or rather like unto one whom I have ſeen upon *Tower-Wharf* half aſtoniſh'd, ſtopping his Ears upon the going off of thoſe carnal Inſtruments of Death placed there.

Thus having laid my ſelf out, as it were, fit for a wooden Tenement call'd a Coffin, I betook my ſelf to Reſt; and, lo! I ſlumber'd and ſlept; and in my Sleep, behold a Viſion appeared unto me; a Viſion in my deep Sleep, I ſay: When methoughts I heard a Voice as it were of a Trumpet, ſaying; *Nathan*! *Nathan*! *Nathan*! Take up the Teleſcope of thy Soul, and look directly before thee: *He that hath Eyes to ſee, let him ſee; and he that hath Ears to hear, let him hear.* — Bear well in thy Mind, therefore, the Proſpect that is before thee.

I did ſo; And behold a great Noiſe, as it were of the ruſhing of many Waters; and it ſeemed to me to be a far off; but as the Noiſe increaſed, the Cauſe thereof drew nearer, when.

* In the *North* parts of *England*, they call Pillovvs Cods.

when lo! A mighty Hoft appeared of Men, Women, and Children, of all Degrees, who appear'd Arm'd with Clubs, Staves, and other Carnal Weapons——Then methoughts, they made a Stand in a great wide Place, betwixt a Pile of ſtately Buildings, and a large Canal, when on a ſudden a Ladder was rear'd amongſt them, on the Top of which ſtood a Man whoſe Features, and Air, Mein, and Dreſs, nearly Reſembled thine *Robin*, in all reſpects; this Man methought had a *Grid-Iron* in one Hand, and was Fiddling on't with the other, whilſt the People below, cry'd, *Down with him, Down with him, he has Undone us all!* With that methoughts, a Sett of bold Spirited Men came to the Ladder and ſhook it (as Boys do a Codling-Tree) when the Man upon the upper round dropt his *Grid-Iron* among the Crowd, but who took it up, I cannot affirm, but it ſeems it was taken Care to be ſent away by SHIPPING to be made a Preſent of to ſome Perſon of Diſtinction in another Climate.

The aforeſaid Men, who ſhook the *Ladder*, had each of them a great Scrole of Parchment on their Backs with Labels to them, on which was written in Capital Letters, PATRIOTISM, and under that the word *Thouſands*. And methoughts theſe Men labour'd inceſſantly at rocking the *Ladder*, at the Importunities and Cries of the People; when on a ſudden a Scaffold appear'd in the *Eaſt*, much like that on which the Betray'd Duke of *Monmouth* was Beheaded; It was hung with Black, with a Block and an Axe in the middle of it: and there was an Headſman there, with ſome others eagerly looking out for Buſineſs: On t'other ſide the *Ladder*, *Weſtward*, was alſo ſeen the Type of a Gibbet, with a Cord hanging thereon, which the Finiſher of the Law calls a *Halter*, and great Crowds of People round both theſe Machines. —— And now methought the Ladder was rock'd with ſuch Fury, that every Minute methoughts the Man atop would have fallen down Headlong upon one or other of theſe Inſtruments of Death. He ſtrove with all his might to baffle their Deſigns; thifted Hands, firſt on one ſide, and then on t'other; laid hold of *this* round, and next of *that*; till even ſpent, and his Strength gone, he flung great Quantities of Yellow Medals about to allay the Fury of thoſe beneath him; who ſeeming highly to reſent what they thought as the Vulgar ſay, *Pigs of their own Sows*, he gave over ſtruggling any Longer, and quitting the hold he had graſp'd ſo faſt, he preſently fell, and methought great was his Fall: But whether to the *Eaſt* or *Weſt*, I cannot affirm, the Huzza's of the People being ſo loud, that it rais'd me from my Sleep, when the Vision departed from me.

And now Friend, *Robin*, having made known my Vision unto thee, let me exhort thee to a ſtrict and timely Examination of thy Life; and the more ſince thy Image is not unlike to that of the Man upon the Ladder; and if upon a ſerious Retroſpection of thy paſt Life, thou canſt ſay, Thou haſt not been guilty of Miſmanagement, Ambition, Ill-Counſel A vare Breach of Truſt, Bribery, or any willfull Male Adminiſtration ſince thou haſt run thy Length within theſe few Years laſt paſt; then thou ſhalt not be as the Man upon the Ladder, nor ſhall the Multitude rage againſt thee, nor the People deſire thy Fall; but thou will deſerve to have it ſaid and done unto thee, as it was unto *Mordecai*, *What ſhall be done unto the Man, whom the King delighteth to Honour.* If not able to juſtify thy ſelf as above, then thou proveſt thy ſelf to be the Man in the *Viſion*, and may'ſt expect no other Fate than that of *Haman*: For, *when the Righteous are in Authority, the People rejoice, but when the Wicked beareth Rule, the People Mourn.* Therefore, *He that being often reproved, hardeneth his Neck, ſhall ſuddenly be deſtroy'd, and that without Remedy.*

FINIS.